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Item 5 (c) of the provisional agenda*

PRIORITY THEMES

PEACE: EQUAL PARTICIPATION IN ALL EFFORTS TO PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, PEACE AND DISARMAMENT

Statement submitted by the following non-governmental oganizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Zonta International (category I); and International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of University Women, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (category II)

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 29 and 30 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1296 (XLIV) of 23 May 1968.

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1. The Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-fourth session, adopted draft resolution XIII, to which were annexed the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. The Commission's draft resolution was adopted by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1990/15. Paragraph 22 of the recommendations is indeed accurate: "Despite the progress made in some areas, international, regional and national conflicts persist, and women continue to number among their main victims. At the same time, women are no more prominent among those making decisions on conflict than in the past." During the months preceding the Gulf War, women were conspicuously absent from the negotiating process.

2. That armed conflict is over and peace initiatives are underway. Recommendation XX states that "Governments should be encouraged to increase the participation of women in the peace process at the decision-making level, including them as part of delegations to negotiate international agreements relating to peace and disarmament and establishing a target for the number of women participating in such delegations". We strongly support the inclusion of women as part of delegations to negotiate international agreements relating to peace. Women, over 50 per cent of the world's

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population, should participate in decisions that will affect their lives and those of their children.

3. Two years have passed since the adoption of the draft resolution and we see little evidence that Member States have implemented recommendation XX or have any intention of doing so. No new recommendation is needed, but we urge the Commission to call on Member States to act now to implement recommendation XX. It is time for the Commission to focus world attention on one of its most important recommendations by calling on Member States to honour their commitment to equality for women in the process of negotiating peace by implementation of this recommendation.